IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Application of Atty. Docket

LUCAS J.F. GEURTS PHNL 010083

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METHOD AND DEVICE FOR OUTPUTTING AUDIO-VISUAL SIGNALS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

APPEAL BRIEF

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(i) Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest in this application is KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. by virtue of an assignment from the inventors recorded on April 29, 2002, at Reel 012861, Frame 0770.

(ii) Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no other appeals and/or interferences related to this application.

(iii) Status of Claims

Claims 1-29 stand finally rejected by the Examiner, the rejections of claims 1-29 being appealed herewith.

(iv) Status of Amendments

There was one Response filed on March 3, 2006, after final rejection of the claims on January 23, 2006, this Response having been considered by the Examiner.

(v) Summary Of Claimed Subject Matter

The subject invention relates to a client system for rendering audio-visual signals in a human-perceptible form, e.g., sound signals from a loudspeaker for audio signals, and display images for visual signals. To that end, the subject invention includes a local database containing such audio-visual signals and a network connection to remote databases also containing such audio-visual signals.

The subject invention attempts to alleviate the burden on the user of selecting the local database or the remote databases to provide the audio-visual signals. To that end, the subject invention, as claimed in claim 1, includes "selecting a selected input from at least one local input and at least one network input". This is shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and described in the specification on page 3, lines 21-24, in which "the switch device 13 selects a selected input from the network (NW) input and a local (L) input which, in the device shown in Fig. 1, are the local signal databases 12, 12', 12."

The subject invention, as claimed in claim 1, further includes the limitations "if said network input is selected as said selected input, receiving network signal data representing said audio-visual signals at said network input", and "and if said local input is selected as said selected input, selecting, from a local signal database, local signal data representing said audio-visual signals". These limitations are shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and described in the specification on page 3, lines 24-27, in which it

is stated "At the selected input signal data is received in reception steps II or IV. The reception step is a network reception step II if the network input 11 is the selected input. If the selected input is the local input, the reception step is a local signal data reception step IV. The audio-visual signals represented by the signal data received in reception step II, IV are outputted in an output step III."

The subject invention, as claimed in claim 1, further includes "outputting at an output said audio-visual signals in a human-perceptible form". This is shown in Figs. 2 and 3, and described in the specification on page 3, lines 27-31, in which step III includes outputting the audio-visual signals by output device 15. "This output device 15 may output the audio-visual signals represented by the data in any type suitable for human perception, such as sound or images or both."

In addition, the subject invention, as claimed in claim 1, includes "said step of selecting a selected input is performed in an automated manner based on at least one predetermined criterion". This is shown in Fig. 1 and described in the specification on page 4, lines 1-3, in which a control device 14 automatically switches the switch device 13 based on a predetermined criterion.

Correspondingly, the subject invention, as claimed in claim 15, includes "at least one network input communicatively connected to at least one server system, said server system transmitting network signal data representing audio-visual signals to said network input". This is shown in Fig. 1, and described in the

specification on page 3, lines 12-14, and page 6, lines 29-34, in which a network input 11 is connected to server systems 2, 2', 2", which, in turn, are connected to databases 21-25 containing network data (audio-visual signals).

The subject invention, as claimed in claim 15, further includes "a memory means provided with local signal data also representing audio-visual signals". This is shown in Fig. 1 and described in the specification on page 3, lines 14-15, in which local databases 12, 12', 12" contain local data (audio-visual signals).

As claimed in claim 15, the invention also includes "a switch device having a first switch input contact coupled to said memory means in a local mode, a further switch input contact coupled to said at least one network input in a network mode, and a switch output contact". This is shown in Fig. 1 and described in the specification on page 3, lines 17-20, in which system includes a switch device 13 having a first input 13' coupled to the network input 11, a second input 13" coupled to the local databases 12, 12', 12", and a switch output 13'''.

The subject invention, as claimed in claim 15, further includes "an output device coupled to said switch output contact, said output device outputting said audio-visual signals in a human-perceptible form". This is shown in Fig. 1, and described in the specification on page 3, lines 27-33, in which the switch output 13''' is coupled to output device 15 (shown as a loudspeaker), in which "This output device 15 may output the audio-visual signals

represented by the data in any type suitable for human perception, such as sound or images or both."

In addition, the subject invention, as claimed in claim 15, includes "a control device for automatically switching said switch device between said local mode and said network mode depending on at least one predetermined criterion". This is shown in Fig. 1 and described in the specification on page 4, lines 1-3, wherein control device 14 automatically switches the switch device 13 based on a predetermined criterion. Different criteria on which the control device 14 controls the switch device 13 are described in the specification on page 4, line 4 to page 5, line 27.

(vi) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

(A) Whether the invention, as claimed in claims 1-4, 8-10, 12-18, 22-25 and 27-29, is anticipated, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), by U.S. Patent 6,754,696 to Kamath et al.

(B) Whether the invention, as claimed in claims 6, 11, 20 and 26, is unpatentable, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), over Kamath et al. in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA), i.e., paragraphs [0006]-[0007] of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0122116 A1, corresponding to the subject application.

(C) Whether the invention, as claimed in claims 5, 7, 19 and 21, is unpatentable, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), over Kamath et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,757,705 to Pardikar et al.

(vii) Arguments

(A) Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Kamath et al.

1. Claims 1-4, 8-10, 12-18, 22-25 and 27-29

35 U.S.C. 102(e) states:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

The Kamath et al. patent discloses an extended file system in which a user of, for example, a pocket sized personal computer may connect to remote storage to provide an extended file system such as a virtual local drive.

The subject invention relates to a client system for rendering audio-visual signals in a human-perceptible form, e.g., sound signals from a loudspeaker for audio signals, and display images for visual signals. To that end, the subject invention includes a local database containing such audio-visual signals and a network connection to remote databases also containing such audio-visual signals. In order to alleviate the burden of selecting the local or network input, the subject invention, as claimed in claim 1, includes "said step of selecting a selected input is performed in an automated manner based on at least one predetermined criterion".

The Examiner has indicated that Kamath et al. teaches each of the elements as set forth in claim 1 of the subject application.

As noted in MPEP § 2131, it is well-founded that "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Appellant submits that Kamath et al. neither shows nor suggests "if said network input is selected as said selected input, receiving network signal data representing said audio-visual signals at said network input", "outputting at an output said audio-visual signals in a human-perceptible form", "and if said local input is selected as said selected input, selecting, from a local signal database, local signal data representing said audio-visual signals", and "outputting, at said output, said audio-visual signals in a human-perceptible form".

The Examiner has indicated that these elements of the invention are taught by Kamath et al. at col. 12, lines 11-67 and col. 14, lines 1-10 (receiving network signal data representing said audio-visual signals); col. 2, lines 3-22 and col. 14, lines 1-10 (outputting said audio-visual signals in a human-perceptible form); col. 5, lines 39-57 and col. 13, lines 37-51 (selecting local signal data representing said audio-visual signals); and col. 5, lines 45-57, col. 12, lines 57-62, and col. 13, lines 5-67 (outputting said audio-visual signals in a human-perceptible form).

Appellant has studied the Kamath et al. patent, and particularly those areas noted by the Examiner, and believes that the Examiner is mistaken. In particular, cols. 12 and 14 of Kamath et al. do not even mention audio and/or video (or visual) signals, or that the network signal data represents such audio-visual signals. Further, col. 2, lines 3-22 and col. 14, lines 1-10 of Kamath et al. neither disclose nor suggest outputting audio-visual signals in a human-perceptible form. Similarly, col. 5, lines 39-57 and col. 13, lines 37-51 of Kamath et al., do not mention audio and/or video (or visual) signals, or that the local signal data represents such audio-visual signals. Finally, col. 5, lines 45-57, col. 12, lines 57-62, and col. 13, lines 5-67 of Kamath et al. neither disclose nor suggest outputting these audio-visual signals in a human-perceptible form.

In response thereto, the Examiner now states:

> "Kamath et al teach receiving data from local and remote inputs. Kamath et al teach that the user is able to select how data should be retrieved, either locally or remotely based on the attributes of the data (col.13 line 20 - col. 14 line 5). Kamath et al. also teach the retrieved data is returned to a user in "human-perceptible" form, wherein the user is able to interact with and access the downloaded retrieved data (col. 5 lines 39-57, col. 6 lines 48-57, col. 11 line 39 - col. 12 line 41, col. 20 lines 21-31, col. 30 lines 25-40)."

First, Appellant submits that the Examiner is mischaracterizing the invention. In particular, Appellant's invention is not "the user is able to select how data should be retrieved, either locally or remotely based on the attributes of the data". Rather, claim 1 specifically states "selecting a selected input from at least one local input and at least one

network input" and "said step of selecting a selected input is performed in an automated manner based on at least one predetermined criterion". Additionally, Appellant's invention is not "the retrieved data is returned to a user in "human-perceptible" form, wherein the user is able to interact with and access the downloaded retrieved data". Rather, claim 1 specifically states "outputting at an output said audio-visual signals in a human-perceptible form".

Second, the sections noted by the Examiner do not disclose the claimed invention. In particular, Kamath et al., at col. 5, lines 39-57, states:

> "In the set-top box implementation, the client devices 54 will normally be physically connected to the servers 76.sub.1 -76.sub.m at all times via the cable/satellite modem 70 therein. Indeed, since broadband is in use, remote files may be quickly accessed by the client, as described below, even though logical connections are preferably made on a per-access basis. In keeping with the present invention, however, the client device provides local storage for caching some of the data maintained at the remote storage device 74, thereby enabling operation without a physical connection. Synchronization may be performed at some later time or on demand. As can be appreciated, this is particularly useful with client devices such as pocket-sized computing devices (e.g., 20), digital cameras, and so forth wherein a physical connection is occasional. Moreover, local caching is generally valuable when dealing with Internet content, as even when physically connected to a provider, the Internet is unreliable and can be susceptible to long delays in transmission and also helps in optimizing bandwidth utilization.";

at col. 6, lines 48-57, states:

> "The XFS server portion 92 includes an XFS Access Controller 98, an XFS Permissions manager 100, and an XFS Name Resolution Manager (name services module) 102. The access controller 98 is responsible for receiving primitives from the client and taking actions on them, although when the access controller 98 receives name-

server primitives, it routes them to name services module 102. As described below, the access controller 98 translates primitives to appropriate actions to be taken on the file system and sends the response back to the client.";

at col. 11, line 39 to col. 12, line 4, states:

"The user can request typical file system operations on objects via session primitives in a new session, (represented in FIG. 7 by arrows numbered (13-18)). As shown in FIG. 7, these XFS-related session primitives (arrows (15) and (16)) are generally wrapped in PRIMITIVE_CALL (arrows (13) and (14)) and PRIMITIVE_HANGUP (arrows (17) and (18)) primitives, and are set forth in the table below:"

"As described above, the Call and Hangup primitives are used so that the system can scale to large networks, i.e., XFS establishes a connection only to retrieve and submit data, and then closes (hangs up) the connection.

"Thus, unlike existing file systems, when the user requests a file system operation on an object, the extended file system of the present invention evaluates the Local/Remote attribute to determine whether the object can be retrieved locally or needs to be retrieved from remote storage. Any changes to a local object are synchronized with the remote file system, however reads and the like that do not change an object may be performed locally, without any need to communicate with the server. Note that as described below, some files are too large to be stored locally, and such files are marked by setting another attribute, i.e., a "synchronize only" attribute (circled "S" as represented in FIG. 12).

"By way of example, consider a user presented with the locally-downloaded directory listing 110a when the user (or some entity such as a remote server) wants to access (e.g., open) a particular file, e.g., via the path \DIR2\DIR3\File11. When the user selects the DIR2 directory, or when the path\filename is provided, the system determines from the Local/Remote file attribute that the directory \DIR2 is remote. For example, in a Windows® CE environment, an application places an API call to the operating system kernel, which passes the request to the file system manager 32 (FIG. 4). In turn, the file system manager 32 (e.g., FSDMGR in Windows® CE) sends the request to the XFSFSD 96, which analyzes the call and calls back to the file system manager 32 with the information (track and sector) needed to locate the attribute information on the

> XFSDISK 34. Note that the track equals one on a RAMDisk. When the file system manager returns the attribute information, the XFSFSD 96 determines that the directory data stream is remote, and calls the XFSCLNT 94 to retrieve the data from the remote server. XFSCLNT issues a DIRECTORY primitive to the server and fetches the remote data.";

at col. 20, lines 21-31, states:

> "Once the client gets retrieve response, it should verify the crc. If it does not mach, it should re-send the primitive across.
> "A Retrieve sequence is terminated by the server with either retrieve response, a return value other than 0 in dwError or length less than the requested length. If the length is less than requested length, a retrieve response is send back. Otherwise, a continue is send back from the server. The client can terminate the retrieve sequence by sending a sectionstart=0 and dwlength=0 with the retrieve request.";

and at col. 30, lines 25-40, states:

> "As can be seen from the foregoing detailed description, there is provided a method and system wherein a client device has access to an entire file system with large storage capacity when a physical connection is present, even with limited memory resources. The system and method are fast, efficient, scalable and secure. The client device works with locally-cached data, and thus may work without a physical connection, and then upload any changes at a later time. While the present invention thus provides particular benefit with the Internet, it also provides numerous other benefits to computer users in general. Note further that the present invention need not be limited to hierarchically arranged directories of files, but may alternatively be used with other arrangements of data."

Appellant submits that a review of these sections shows that Kamath et al. neither discloses nor suggests "outputting at an output said audio-visual signals in a human-perceptible form".

In the event that there is a question as to what is meant by "human-perceptible form", Appellant refers to the specification as filed on page 3, lines 27-33, where it is stated "This output

device 15 may output the audio-visual signals represented by the data in any type suitable for human perception, such as sound or images or both."

(B) Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kamath et al. in view of AAPA

1. Claims 6, 11, 20 and 26.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) states:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The above arguments with regard to Kamath et al. are incorporated herein.

"Applicant Admitted Prior Art" consists of paragraphs [0006]-[0007] of the subject specification (2002/0122116 A1), which states:

> "In the prior art device selecting of audio signals to his liking is a difficult task for the user of the client system, because of the huge amount and variety of audio-data available on the network. Furthermore, the amount of locally stored music is limited, so a perceiver of this local input may perceive an audio-visual piece, like music, a multiple of times, which may be experienced as annoying by the user.
> "The user often has to pay for the audio signals stemming from the network input. The cost may for example be associated with the information represented by the audio signal, like the movie or piece of music, or with the connection itself, for example because the user has to pay for usage of the network, for example via a subscription fee. These expenses may easily

exceed a maximum amount the user wanted to spent initially."

Claims 6 and 20 include the limitation "wherein at least one predetermined criterion is based on a parameter related to the costs of said network signal data", while claims 11 and 26 include the limitation "wherein said metadata includes pricing data representing pricing and selling information relating to said audio-visual signals".

Appellant submits that contrary to the statement of the Examiner, AAPA neither discloses nor suggests "wherein at least one predetermined criterion (on which the step of selecting selected input is performed in an automated manner is based) is based on a parameter related to the costs of said network signal data". Rather, AAPA merely cites the problems that a user of the prior art device faces due to the "huge amount and variety of audio-data available on the network" and that, typically, obtaining audio signals from the network incur costs which may easily exceed a user's desired maximum amount. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in the AAPA that the automated selection of network data and local data should be based on the costs of the network data.

(C) Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kamath et al. in view of Pardikar et al.

1. Claims 5, 7, 19 and 21

As noted above, 35 U.S.C. 103(a) states:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences

> between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The above arguments with regard to Kamath et al. are incorporated herein.

The Pardikar et al. patent discloses a method and system for client-side caching in which the benefits of caching is described as allowing enabling off-line computing while still retaining data on a server system. The only portion of Pardikar et al. which relates to the subject matter of claim 5, i.e., "wherein said predetermined relation is a ratio of the amount of transmitted local signal data and the amount of transmitted network signal data", is col. 9, lines 55-65, which states:

> "The cached file table 84 also includes the length of the file in the cache and the length of the file in the server. This is used by the background thread 83 to check for sparse files, i.e., when the file lengths are the same, the file is complete and may be displayed and otherwise accessed by the user while working offline, otherwise the file is sparse and still needs to be filled. Sparse files are hidden from the user while the user is working offline. The record for each file also includes the caching policy, described above, and an indicator bit as to whether the file is pinned, so that the quota mechanism operates correctly."

Claims 5 and 19 include the limitation "wherein said predetermined relation is a ratio of the amount of transmitted local signal data and the amount of transmitted network signal data", while claim 7 includes the limitation "wherein said selecting is performed based on said one of said at least one first predetermined criterion, based on a predetermined relation between

a parameter related to the amount of transmitted local signal data and a parameter related to the amount of transmitted network signal data, and at least one second predetermined criterion based on a parameter related to the costs of said network signal data, and wherein, irrespective of said first predetermined criterion, said local input is selected as said selected input as soon as said at least one second predetermined criterion is satisfied" (claim 21 including substantially the same limitation).

Appellant submits that it should be clear from the above passage that Pardikar et al. is merely comparing the size of a file in cache with the same file in the server to determine whether the server/cached file needs to be updated. Hence, there is no selecting of an input based on the ratio of the amount of transmitted local data and the amount of transmitted network data.

Based on the above arguments, Appellant believes that the subject invention is not rendered obvious by the prior art and is patentable thereover. Therefore, Appellant respectfully requests that this Board reverse the decisions of the Examiner and allow this application to pass on to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

by __/Edward W. Goodman/_____
Edward W. Goodman, Reg. 28,613
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(viii) Claims Appendix

1. (Previously Presented) A method for outputting audio-visual signals on a client system, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a selected input from at least one local input and at least one network input;

if said network input is selected as said selected input, receiving network signal data representing said audio-visual signals at said network input;

outputting at an output said audio-visual signals in a human-perceptible form;

and if said local input is selected as said selected input, selecting, from a local signal database, local signal data representing said audio-visual signals;

outputting, at said output, said audio-visual signals in a human-perceptible form;

characterized in that,

said step of selecting a selected input is performed in an automated manner based on at least one predetermined criterion.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least one predetermined criterion is based on a property of said local signal data.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein if said local input is selected, said predetermined

criterion is based on a property of said audio-visual signals being outputted.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least one predetermined criterion is based on a predetermined relation between a parameter related to an amount of transmitted local signal data and a parameter related to an amount of transmitted network signal data.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said predetermined relation is a ratio of the amount of transmitted local signal data and the amount of transmitted network signal data.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one predetermined criterion is based on a parameter related to the costs of said network signal data.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as is claimed in claim 4, wherein said selecting is performed based on said one of said at least one first predetermined criterion, based on a predetermined relation between a parameter related to the amount of transmitted local signal data and a parameter related to the amount of transmitted network signal data, and at least one second predetermined criterion based on a parameter related to the costs of said network signal data, and wherein, irrespective of said

first predetermined criterion, said local input is selected as said selected input as soon as said at least one second predetermined criterion is satisfied.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein if said local input is selected as said selected input, said method further comprises the steps of:

receiving of said network signal data simultaneously; and

storing said network signal data in a buffer memory means as buffered data.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said method comprises:

performing a second step of selecting a selected input is performed after said local input is selected; and

if, in said second step of selecting, said network input is selected as said selected input, using said buffered data for providing network signal data.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

receiving metadata simultaneously with said step of receiving network signal data; and

outputting said metadata in a human-perceptible form.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said metadata includes pricing data representing pricing and selling information relating to said audio-visual signals.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said method further comprises the step of:

displaying said metadata on a visual output means.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network signal data is obtained from a server computer system which is communicatively connected to said network input, and wherein said method is performed on a client computer system.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said audio-visual signals are audio signals.

15. (Previously Presented) A client system for outputting audio-visual signals, said client system comprising:

at least one network input communicatively connected to at least one server system, said server system transmitting network signal data representing audio-visual signals to said network input;

a memory means provided with local signal data also representing audio-visual signals;

a switch device having a first switch input contact coupled to said memory means in a local mode, a further switch

input contact coupled to said at least one network input in a network mode, and a switch output contact; and

an output device coupled to said switch output contact, said output device outputting said audio-visual signals in a human-perceptible form;

characterized in that said client system further comprises:

a control device for automatically switching said switch device between said local mode and said network mode depending on at least one predetermined criterion.

16. (Previously Presented) The client system as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least one of said at least one predetermined criterion is based on a property of said local signal data.

17. (Previously Presented) The client system as claimed in claim 16, wherein if said switch device is in said local mode, said predetermined criterion is based on a property of said audio-visual signals being outputted.

18. (Previously Presented) The client system as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least one predetermined criterion is based on a predetermined relation between a parameter related to an amount of transmitted local signal data and a parameter related to an amount of transmitted network signal data.

19. (Previously Presented) The client system as is claimed in claim 18, wherein said predetermined relation is the ratio of the amount of transmitted local signal data and the amount of transmitted network signal data.

20. (Previously Presented) The client system as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least one predetermined criterion is based on a parameter related to costs of said network signal data.

21. (Previously Presented) The client system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said control device controls the switch device depending on at least one first predetermined criterion based on the predetermined relation between the parameter related to the amount of transmitted local signal data and the parameter related to the amount of transmitted network signal data, and at least one second predetermined criterion based on a parameter related to costs of said network signal data, and wherein said control device switches said switch device to said local mode as soon as said at least one second predetermined criterion is satisfied, irrespective of said at least one first predetermined criterion.

22. (Previously Presented) The client system as claimed in claim 15, wherein said client system further comprises a buffer memory coupled to said network input for storing network signal data as buffered data, said buffer memory having a buffer output connected to said switch device.

23. (Previously Presented) The client system as claimed in claim 15, wherein said client system further comprises:

a selection device for selecting local signal data from said local signal database, said selection device being coupled to said local signal database nd to said switch device.

24. (Previously Presented) The client system as claimed in claim 15, wherein said client system further comprises:

a network selection device for selecting one of a plurality of server systems, said network selection device being coupled to said at least one server system and to said switch device.

25. (Previously Presented) The client system as claimed in claim 15, wherein said at least one server system further transmits metadata, and said client system further comprises a metadata output device coupled to said network input.

26. (Previously Presented) The client system as claimed in claim 25, wherein said metadata represents pricing and selling information about said audio-visual signals.

27. (Previously Presented) The client system as claimed in claim 25, wherein said metadata output device is a visual display device.

28. (Previously Presented) A computer program for running on a computer system, characterized in that the computer program contains code portions for performing steps of a method as is claimed in claims 1 when running on a computer system.

29. (Previously Presented) A data carrier containing data representing the computer program as claimed in claim 28.

(ix) Evidence Appendix

There is no evidence which had been submitted under 37 C.F.R. 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132, or any other evidence entered by the Examiner and relied upon by Appellant in this Appeal.

(x) Related Proceedings Appendix

Since there were no proceedings identified in section (ii) herein, there are no decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding identified pursuant to paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of 37 C.F.R. 41.37.